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 SECURITY INFORMATION
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Reduction of Food Rations

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1. The Czech people are confused and worried by the announcement that food rations in Czechoslovakia are being reduced, especially in view of the news that the Hungarian government has recently eased food controls. The Czechoslovak press failed to mention the significant coincidence between the food crisis and the trip to Moscow of Minister of Foreign Trade Antonin Gregor, but explained only that food consumption and deliveries must be controlled in order to assure a continuous food supply.
2. Small farmers have been most affected by the ration cuts, which amount to about 30 percent. Members of collective farm organizations who use the facilities of the collective but also farm for their own consumption are now considered self-supporting and no longer are issued ration cards. In Samorin (Pl9/Y18) and certain other areas of Slovakia about 90 percent of the farmers in the collectives fall into this category. There are an estimated 10,000 farmers in Slovakia who have no ration cards.
3. Rations have also been reduced for members of foreign missions, whose special ration cards have been abolished. Czechoslovak employees of foreign missions no longer receive cheap meal privileges (werkskueche) and now have a lower standard of living than the average Czechoslovak worker.
4. The monthly wages of the average farm worker amounts to about 5,000 kcs plus payment in kind and cheap meal privileges which bring the total monthly pay to about 7,000 kcs. Real income in Czechoslovakia has dropped to about 60 percent of the 1937 level.

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